Safety Report

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Organization and Mission
The NSLS Environment, Safety, Health and Quality Division, headed by Bob Casey, consists of seven professionals servicing ESH, Training, and Quality Assurance, and one administrative assistant.

ESH performance within the NSLS and at Brookhaven National Laboratory in general remains an important issue for NSLS staff, PRT members, and users. There is great emphasis at BNL on reducing the frequency of injuries and incidents, and this emphasis produces heightened visibility for all matters relating to safety. The NSLS Activity Report provides an excellent opportunity to comment on ESH performance at the NSLS and to discuss issues that will be of importance in the year ahead.

2005 Activities
Safety performance was high in 2005 in all areas.

1. We had no injuries that met recording criteria or resulted in lost or restricted time during 2005. In fact, at the time of this writing, we have worked more than 1.5 million person hours without a lost-time injury at the NSLS. This parameter is given a major weighting by BNL and Department of Energy management in judging safety performance. In the figure, on the next page, the significant reduction in DART rate since FY 1997 is clear. We can all take pride in that accomplishment.
2. We had no reportable occurrences related to ESH issues in 2005.
3. Radiation exposure remains very low — the total recorded dose to NSLS staff and users for 2005 was less than 50 mRem.
4. There were no spills or releases of hazardous materials to the environment.
5. The generation of hazardous and industrial waste continues near all-time lows. Inspections of work sites indicate a high degree of compliance with hazardous waste and environmental requirements.
6. Our responsiveness to inspection and audit findings and training requirements was prompt and complete in general.
7. Our compliance with safety requirements, as indicated through numerous audits, is viewed as high.

These performance measures are a good indicator that NSLS staff and users are seriously addressing safety. Because of the effort of many people, the NSLS is a safe place to work. More than 1,200 experiments were conducted safely and approximately 2,300 users conducted research in our facility without significant incident or injury. I want to acknowledge the ongoing commitment and dedication of the NSLS management and staff, and that of our user community. A pat on the back is due to everyone involved.

ESH Initiatives of Importance in 2006
Two issues of importance to the user community will receive particular emphasis during 2006.

Electrical Safety
Much has been done in the past year to identify equipment that has the potential to create electrical shock hazards if improperly handled. Labeling, increased training, and inspections have been a major commitment. A similar emphasis will continue this year to re-enforce the previous efforts. Inspections will begin on beamline equipment that does not have a label or sticker from a nationally recognized test laboratory (e.g. U.L). In addition, all equipment brought in by visiting users must be labeled or inspected by designated staff before it can be used on the experimental floor.

Integrated Safety Management

The NSLS Safety Program is based on the principles described by the Department of Energy as Integrated Safety Management (ISM). It is the intent of the ISM program to ensure that all work is effectively performed by trained and qualified personnel and that hazards associated with the work have been fully identified and properly controlled. These concepts are embodied in the safety program requirements established for all users and staff. We will seek to ensure a good understanding and implementation of these practices and requirements throughout this year.

Conclusion

We must maintain a sharp focus on working safely, and we must continue efforts to ensure that our research programs capture the requirements of the NSLS Safety Program and the essence of ISM. World-class research and a rigorous safety program are compatible. Most importantly, a successful safety program is built on an ongoing awareness, involvement, and commitment from everyone. We all know that one problem can quickly override and out-shine many successes. Whether you are at your home institution or at the NSLS, keep an eye on the workplace. Make sure that all requirements are respected and that work is conducted safely. We all have a stake in safety performance.